



# Meeting Notes

## Landscaping Focus Group Meeting

**9:00 a.m. – Tuesday, May 26, 2009**

APS Conference Room, 101 West Cherry Ave, Flagstaff, AZ

1. Welcome and Introductions

In attendance:

Elaine Averitt, City of Flagstaff  
Roger Eastman, City of Flagstaff  
Randy Groth, City of Flagstaff  
Tom Hanecak, Coconino County Parks  
Della Hohlfeld, Citizen  
Melissa Klatzker, Citizen  
Ed Larsen, City of Flagstaff  
Gary Nelson, Citizen  
Nigel Sparks, Native Plant & Seed  
Jeff Stein, The WLB Group  
Pam Symond, Citizen  
Kim Tittelbaugh, Citizen  
Mary Jo Tsitouris, City of Flagstaff  
Craig Watkins, Citizen

2. Focus Group Overview

Roger Eastman explained that 11 focus groups have been formed as a part of the Land Development Code re-write process. These groups are not a "formal body" and do not fall under the open meeting laws. Agendas will be distributed via e-mail. Meeting notes and agendas will also be available on the City's webpage in an effort to save resources.

3. Roles/expectations of the Focus Groups

The purpose of the focus group is to look at the "big picture" and try not to get into the "weeds" of each issue. The focus group members will focus on the main issues and determine whether or not the current code supports the issue, or if not, how to get there.

4. Roles/expectations of staff

City staff will provide technical support & expertise.

## 5. Issue review

Elaine Averitt gave a brief overview of the current landscaping standards, which were adopted in 1991. The landscaping standards apply to all proposed new land uses, developments, buildings, structures, and all additions to buildings, land uses, developments or structures of 25% or more in terms of additional dwelling units, gross floor area, building perimeter or other units of measurement. Exceptions include single-family detached residential development; building additions of less than 25% increase. If additional parking is required for additions under 25%, then landscaping is only required for the new spaces.

### Key issues identified:

- Conflicts with Regional Plan
  - Use separation vs. mixed use
- Quality vs. quantity
- Beautification
  - Right-of-way
  - Private Property
- Engineering standards & zoning code standards
- Water conservation
  - Size of plan materials
  - Rain water harvesting
  - LID manual
  - Grey water use
  - Water reuse
  - Plant selection
  - Irrigation systems
  - Turf limitations
- Education on water conservation
- Restrictions on watering
- Mandates on soil depth & amendments
  - Turf and ground covers
- Xeriscape - hierarchy of planting
- Staggered planting schedule
- Hydro seed mix
- Community gardens
- Incorporate “edible landscaping” in areas conducive
- Consistently apply standards to promote Flagstaff’s character
- Enforcement (recommendations vs. requirements)
- “Water police” volunteers
- Transects of characteristics in Flagstaff
- Noxious and their control and education
- Chemical use

Works:

- Results in some landscaping
- Achieves buffer
- Consistent application
- Street trees
- Water conservation
- Good for large sites

Doesn't work:

- Not good for small sites
- Maintenance of street trees
- "Recommended" or "required"
- Outdated
- Opacity excessive
- Week on irrigation (wasteful)
- Enforcement difficult – falls back on the Planner
- Doesn't meet purpose/intent
- Mono culture
- Landscaping architect not required
- Poor design
- Lacks sustainable practice
- Chemical use

6. Future meetings:  
Second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 9:00 – 10:30 am.
7. Election of a chair person and vice-chair person  
Chair person: Gary Nelson  
Vice Chair: Jeff Stein
8. Dot mapping exercise for Flagstaff  
  
Green: Preserve  
Blue: Needs to evolve  
Red: Must transform
9. Adjournment  
10:25 a.m.